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Arthur C. LAMB et al., "Collapsing Event Display for Small Screen Computer"

EL324593479 US

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

**ADDRESS TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

1. [ X ] Fee Transmittal Form  
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. [ X ] Specification [Total Pages 23 ]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the Invention
  - Cross References to Related Applications
  - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R&D
  - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
  - Background of the Invention
  - Brief Summary of the Invention
  - Brief Description of the Drawings
  - Detailed Description
  - Claim(s)
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. [ X ] Drawing(s) (37 CFR 1.152) [Total Sheets 3 ]
4. [ X ] Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3 ]
- a. [ ] Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. [ X ] Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)  
[Note Box 5 below]
- i. [ ] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting  
inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. [ X ] Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which  
a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b  
is considered as being part of the disclosure of the  
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by  
reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (*Appendix*)

7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(*if applicable, all necessary*)

a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy

b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)

c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

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8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents(s))

9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (*when there is an assignee*) ☐ Power of Attorney by Assignee

10. ☐ English Translation Document (*if applicable*)

11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations

12. ☒ Preliminary Amendment (2 pages)

13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(*Should be specifically itemized*)

14. ☐ Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(*if foreign priority is claimed*)

16. ☐ Other: .....

16. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☒ Continuation    ☐ Divisional    ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)    of prior application No. 09/037,157

## 17. CORRESPONDING ADDRESS

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Typed or  
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~~Kent R. Richardson~~

Reg. Number 39,443

Signature

Date December 7, 1999

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL324593479US

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 15886-451

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Arthur C. Lamb et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
 )  
Application No. Unassigned ) Examiner: Unknown  
(Continuation of USSN: 09/037,157) )  
 )  
Filed: Herewith )  
 )  
For: COLLAPSING EVENT DISPLAY FOR )  
SMALL SCREEN COMPUTER )  
 )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

In the specification, page 1, prior to the heading "Background of the Invention", please insert the following new paragraph:

**--Relationship to Copending Applications**

This application is a Continuation of Application Serial No. 09/037,157, filed March 9, 1998, entitled "Collapsing Event Display For Small Screen Computer", by inventors Arthur C. Lamb and Rob Haitani, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

Application No. Unassigned  
Page 2

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16 and 28-38. Originally filed claims 17-27 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

Entry of the above-identified Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 15886-451).

Respectfully submitted,

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI

By: 

Kent R. Richardson  
Registration No. 39,443

650 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, California 94304  
(650) 493-9300

Date: 12/15/99

# COLLAPSING EVENT DISPLAY FOR SMALL SCREEN COMPUTER

Inventors: Arthur C. Lamb  
Rob Haitani

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## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to calender applications for small screen computers, such as hand held computers, and more particularly to techniques for efficient use of the small screen for such applications.

10

### Description of Related Art

15

Small screen, hand held computers are gaining popularity, particularly for use as calendering tools. Hand held computers typically include an application program for scheduling and keeping track of appointments and other calendering functions. One popular hand held computer, sold under the trademark PalmPilot, by 3Com Corporation, includes a calendering program known as "Date Book".

20

25

The small screen on such computers presents a problem for calendering programs, because it is often impossible to display an entire day's appointments at one time in a size that allows reading of text associated with the appointments. This problem of display size is amplified for hand held computers which utilize touch screens over the display for input. In computers using touch screens, each entry on the display maps to an object on the touch screen corresponding to the entry, and therefore the size of each entry must be sufficient for the touch screen to distinguish touches of one entry from another.

The typical prior art device uses display paging to provide sufficient size for each entry. That is, as the display for a given day exceeds the available room on the screen, the computer divides the day into pages, and displays one page at a time. While this paging approach is useful, and provides for effective

calendering, it removes useful information about a single day's appointments from the screen, and makes use of the calendering program less efficient.

Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a technique supporting more efficient use of the display screen on small screen computers, particularly for applications using lists of timed items, like calendering programs having lists of appointments during a day.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an ability to generate a different layout on the screen of a calendering program according to the appointments of the day. Instead of the mechanical one-hour time slots generated for each day, the program generates customized time slots according to the start and end points of the appointments of the day.

In addition to time slots covering appointments, empty time slots will be generated but will not appear on the screen if they overlap with an existing appointment. The elimination of unnecessary images for empty time slots which are in between appointments allows for a more efficient use of space on the display screen.

One embodiment of the invention includes a compressed mode, and a non-compressed mode. If in compressed view mode, empty one-hour time slots will be generated, starting with the time designated as "start of day," to the extent necessary to fill up the screen. Paging of the display is used in the compressed mode when actual appointments require it, but not for the purpose of inserting empty time slots on the screen for the day. If in non-compressed view mode, empty time slots of one-hour duration will be added to the layout between the time designated as "start of day" and the time designated as "end of day," and a scroll icon will appear at the bottom of the page to indicate a next page of display, if the total number of time slots generated exceeds what can be displayed in one page.

The invention can be characterized in one embodiment as a method for rendering a display of a list in a display field, wherein items in the list have a start time, an end time and associated data, such as appointment entries for a calendaring program. The display for the list is rendered depending on the contents of the list.

If the list is empty, empty slot images for a plurality of default times, such as on the hour, are drawn on the display beginning with a start of day time and ending with an end of day time in respective positions in the display field. The empty slot images comprise in one example text indicating a time for the slot, and a horizontal line suggesting a space for inserting text to create an appointment.

If the list is not empty, the program according to this aspect of the invention processes each item in the list according to an order, such as chronologically or reverse chronologically, as follows:

if the end time of the item is earlier than the start time of a next item according to the order, then insert at an available position in the display field a start slot image for the start time of the item followed by graphics, if any, identified by the associated data for the item, followed by an end slot image for the end time of the item if no end slot image for another item is found for the end time,

if the end time of the item matches the start time of a next item according to the order, then insert at an available position in the display field a start slot image for the start time of the item followed by graphics identified by the associated data for the item,

if the end time of the item is later than the start time of a next item according to the order, then insert at an available position in the display field a start slot image for the start

time of the item followed by graphics, if any, identified by the associated data for the item, followed by an end slot image for the end time of the item if no end slot image for another item is found for the end time.

5           Empty slot images are inserted according to a compressed mode or a non-compressed mode as mentioned above. In the compressed mode, the start slot images, graphics indicated by associated data, end slot images and default slot images have respective heights, and empty slot images in the display field are inserted at default times includes, until the sum of the heights of the  
10       inserted start slot images, graphics indicated by associated data, end slot images and default slot images fills the display height, according the following rules:

          inserting empty slot images for default times which occur after the end time of a first item in the list but do not occur between start times and end times for other items in the list,

15           inserting empty slot images for default times between the start of day time and the start time of an item in the list with an earliest start time, and

          inserting empty slot images for default times after the end time of an item in the list having a latest end time until the first to occur of  
20       the end of day time and a condition in which a sum of the heights of the inserted start slot images, graphics indicated by associated data, end slot images and default slot images fills the display height.

25           If the sum of the heights of the inserted start slot images, graphics indicated by associated data, and end slot images fills the display height, then empty slot images are removed between the filled slots to make more room.

          In the non-compressed mode, the empty slot images are managed simply by inserting empty slot images for default times between the start of day time

and the start time of an item in the list with an earliest start time, and between a last end slot image and an end of day time.

The start slot images in one embodiment comprise text indicating a start time for a corresponding item in the list. In this embodiment the end slot images comprise text indicating a end time for a corresponding item in the list. The associated data for an item in the list comprises text in one example, and the graphics identified by the associated data include characters of the text.

According to another aspect, the invention further includes processes for assigning regions, such as rows, in the display field to the empty slot images, and in response to input indicating the assigned regions, such as touch screen input, displaying a tool, such as a dialogue box, for inserting an item in the list having a start time equal to the default time of the empty slot image. In this aspect, the invention also includes processing for assigning regions in the display field to the start slot images, and in response to input, such as touch screen input, indicating the assigned regions, displaying a tool for editing the item in the list corresponding to the start slot image of the assigned region.

According to another aspect of the invention, a hand held computer is provided with a display, a touch screen input device and processing resources for executing the processes outlined above.

Other aspects and advantages of the present invention can be seen on review of the drawings, the detailed description and the claims which follow.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Fig. 1 is a schematic showing of data inflow and outflow, including typical display screen, of a calendering program for a hand held computer having a touch screen input.

Fig. 2 is a schematic of the linkages between the touch screen system object which receives the input, the input data structure (Appointment List) and database for associated data.



Fig. 3 is a flowchart showing the process of building the display layout according to the present invention.

5

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A detailed description of examples of the present invention is provided with reference to the figures, in which Fig. 1 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the input and output of data on a calendaring component of a hand held computer system 10. The computer system 10 includes a small display 11, a central processing unit 12, a touch screen 13 which overlays the display 11, and memory 14. Other processing resources known in the art are included on the system. The block diagram in Fig. 1 is intended to represent any one of a variety of small screen computers such as the hand held computer sold under the trademark PalmPilot by 3Com Corporation of Santa Clara, California. The computer system 10 includes data processing resources for executing a calendaring program. One such calendaring program is known as the Date Book program provided with the PalmPilot (trademark) computer system mentioned above.

The memory 14 according to a preferred embodiment of the invention includes a system object data structure 15, an appointment list data structure 16, and a database 17. The structure of these components is described in more detail with reference to Fig. 2.

Fig. 1 illustrates a first rendering 20 of the display 11, for an empty appointment list, and a second rendering 21 of the display 11 for an appointment list which includes appointment entries. The display rendering 20 shows a sequence of empty slot images such as the image 22 which includes text indicating a time of day such as 8:00am, and a line suggesting an empty region to which text can be added to create a new appointment entry. Also the rendering 20 includes function buttons, such as the "new" button 23, the

5 "details" button 24, and the "go to" button 25. These buttons are touched, and the touch is detected by the touch screen 13 to cause display of tools used by the calendaring program. For example, the "new" button 23 designates an entry point by which a tool for inserting a new appointment is brought up to the screen. The rendering 20 also includes a display mode selector icon 26. This icon includes a field for displaying a single day in the calender, a field for displaying a week in the calender, and a field for displaying a month in the calender. The present invention relates particularly to the single day display mode, in which the time slots between a start of day time, such as 8:00am and an end of day time, such as 6:00pm are displayed, if room is available according to the algorithms of the present invention.

10 The lower region 27 on the rendering 20 represents an input field on the PalmPilot (trademark) computer, which is incidental to the present invention. Thus, the rendering 20 illustrates a rendering of the screen before the user has input appointments using the touch screen. The rendering 21 includes the components of the rendering 20, including the empty slot image 22, but also includes revised time lines exhibiting start time and end time of appointments, and some available empty time lines. Thus, a first appointment entry is represented by the region 28. It includes a start slot image 29 which includes text indicating a starting time, in this example 10:00, and a horizontal line suggesting a place to enter text. There is no text associated with this start slot entry. There is also an end slot entry 30 including a text indicating the ending time of the appointment, and a blank line. A second appointment entry is also shown in the rendering 21 including a start slot entry 31, and an end slot entry 32. Text 33 is also displayed in association with the start slot entry 31. When more than one line is necessary for the text associated with a given appointment, multiple lines are consumed on the display.

The rendering 21 also includes a paging icon 35 by which the user is able to pull-up display of a second page of the appointment day, or return to a first page as necessary.

Also shown on the rendering 21 are time bars 36 and 37. The time bars connect a start slot image, such as image 29 and an end slot image, such as image 30. The time bar display is optional and provides additional feedback to the user concerning the characteristics of the appointments on the display.

The rendering 21 in Fig. 1 also illustrates the tool displayed for adding a new appointment or editing an existing appointment which is displayed upon sensing of a touch of a time slot. Thus for example, the appointment beginning at time 10:00am on the rendering 21 includes a curser 41, and a highlight 40 of the start time 10:00. In the figure, the highlight is in the form of a box around the time. In a preferred embodiment, the highlight is in the form of a reverse coloring for the box around the time. The curser 41 is used in combination with the touch pad region 42 for inserting a new entry in the list, for an empty time slot, and editing an existing entry in the list for a existing time slot existing entry. Thus, if the touch screen detects input on an image of an empty time slot, then the tool is used for creating a new entry in the list. If the touch screen detects an input indicating a time slot for an existing entry in the list, then the tool is used for editing the entry in the list.

It can be appreciated that it is possible to include multiple appointments in a single day, appointments with overlapping times, and appointments with large associated graphics, such as text which can rapidly consume the small screen on the hand held computer.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the display is rendered in a way that conserves space, while displaying as much information about actual appointments as possible. The algorithm works by first creating a list of untimed appointments and timed appointments in the appointment list structure 16 for the current day sorted by time of day. Untimed appointments

are handled as suits the needs of a particular implementation. For example, untimed appointments can be displayed at the beginning of the day with the graphic indicating that the appointments are untimed.

5 If there are no appointments on the current day, the appointment list is filled in with empty time slots, starting with a start of day hour set by a user, and ending at an end of day hour also set by a user. An empty time slot is created for each hour, or at other default times as suits a particular implementation. In this case, the layout of the day is complete and the display is rendered.

10 For a system in which timed appointments have been entered in the list, the process basically proceeds by determining whether the end time of a given appointment overlaps with another appointment. If it does not overlap, a blank time slot is added after the appointment. The start time of the new blank appointment is assigned to be the end time of the timed appointment. The end time of the new blank appointment is the earlier of the start time of the next  
15 timed appointment, or the start time of the next hour or other default time slot. If more than one timed appointments have the same end time, only one blank time slot for all of these appointments is added as the end slot image.

20 If the end time of a given appointment overlaps with another appointment, the start time of the next appointment is entered, followed by the end time of the previous appointment and the end time of the following appointment, in chronological order.

25 The application according to a preferred embodiment has a compressed mode and a non-compressed mode. In the compressed mode, a blank empty slot image is inserted at each default time between the start of day and end of day, if the time does not overlap an existing appointment. The end time of a blank appointment represented by an empty slot image is the earlier of the next appointment or the start time of the next hour and the layout is complete. Next the algorithm determines whether there is enough space to add empty time slots.

These time slots are inserted in addition to the empty time slots that represent the end times of the events, if space is available in the vertical display height of the display field, after the space consumed by the actual appointments, including the start slot images and the associated graphics, and the end slot images. Starting at the start of day, a blank appointment is added at the start of each hour or other default time, if the time does not overlap an existing appointment. Empty slot images are not inserted when the available space is filled in, or when the end of the day is reached. In the non-compressed mode, empty slot images are inserted for every empty slot between the start of day and the end of day. The screen is paged as necessary to provide coverage for the entire range of times in the day. In the compressed view mode, paging of the display is used only when actually filled in appointments require extra space provided by paging.

The system object 15 refers to a mapping from the touch screen 13 to the display in the appointment list 16. The database 17 provides a place for storing data associated with each appointment in the list 16. Fig. 2 illustrates in more detail the linkages between the system object 15, the appointment list 16, and the database 17. In this embodiment the appointment list includes a plurality of entries. Each entry includes a start time in column 50, an end time in column 51, and a record number in column 52. Further, each entry is indexed to a row identifier in the system object in column 53. The system object 15 includes a set of row identifiers, corresponding to each graphic on the display for which input can be detected. Thus, the system object 15 includes a row identifier in column 54, as well as other identifying data for the object in the region 55. For example, the range of columns within which the object falls can also be stored in the system object table 15. In this embodiment, the row identifier is used as an index into the appointment list. Any input sensed by the touch screen for the row identifier 4 is thus mapped to the appointment list at index 4 as indicated in the figure.

5 The record identifier in column 52 in the appointment list 16 is used as an index into a database 17 for storing data associated with the item in the list. Thus, the item 56 in the list includes a start time of 12:00, an end time of 2:00, a record identifier 99, and an index of 4. The record identifier 99 points to entry 99 in the database 17. Data associated with the item in the list 56 includes text reading "meeting with Tara Jones". This text is displayed on the appointment view as indicated by rendering 21 of Fig. 1.

10 The organization of data illustrated in Fig. 2 is one example organization. A wide variety of indexing and data structures could be utilized to accomplish these functions as known in the art.

15 Fig. 3 is the flow chart of a process for building a display after the system receives user input, starting a block 100. In the case of no appointments, the system simply fills the screen with one-hour time slots between the "start of day" and the "end of day." Following link 101 to the algorithm for no appointments, the system draws an empty slot image for the hour designated as "start of day" (box 103). It then draws an empty slot image for the hour designated as "end of day" (box 104). Finally the system draws an empty slot image for each hour between the start and the end of day. The layout is then complete and the system moves to box 120, the end.

20 If there are appointments, the system follows link 102 to the algorithm for combining appointments with extra time slots. For each appointment, the system draws a start slot image for the start of the appointment, followed by text or other graphics indicated by data associated with the appointment, and an end slot image for the end of the appointment, provided an end slot image or a start slot image for the same time has not been drawn for another appointment (box 25 107). The system follows link 106 to repeat the process in box 107 for each appointment. In this example, the empty slot image, stunt slot image and end slot image are essentially the same, except that text is associated with teh start slot image.

For adding extra time slots, the system follows link 108 to the algorithm in box 111 in non-compressed view mode. Checking first to be sure no image has not been drawn for the hour, and that the time is not between the start time and end time of an existing appointment, the system draws an empty slot image for the hour designated "start of day." Following link 110, the system repeats this process for each hour following the "start of day" until it draws an empty slot image for the "end of day." The layout is then complete and the system moves to box 120, the end.

In the compressed view mode, the system will follow link 109 to box 113 for a different algorithm to generate only enough empty time slots to fill the screen. Checking to be sure that an image for the time has not been drawn before, and that the time is not between the start time and the end time of an appointment, the system will draw an empty slot image for the hour designated "start of day." The system then checks to see if the display height is smaller than the screen height (box 114). If the answer is yes, the system follows link 112 to repeat this process for the next hour. If the answer is no, the screen is full and the system follows link 115 to box 120, the end.

The rendering 21 of Fig. 1 is an illustration of a screen display in compressed view mode after entries for two appointments, first from 10:00 to 11:00 and second from 12:00 to 2:00, have been made. Note that no extra timed line for 1:00 will appear on the display screen because 1:00 is between the start time and end time of the second appointment.

If the list is not empty, therefore, the program processes each item in the list according to an order, as follows:

if the end time of the item is earlier than the start time of a next item according to the order, then insert at an available position in the display field a start slot image for the start time of the item followed by graphics, if any, identified by the associated data for the item, followed by an end

slot image for the end time of the item if no end slot  
image for another item is found for the end time,  
if the end time of the item matches the start time of a next item  
according to the order, then insert at an available position  
5 in the display field a start slot image for the start time of  
the item followed by graphics identified by the associated  
data for the item,  
if the end time of the item is later than the start time of a next  
item according to the order, then insert at an available  
10 position in the display field a start slot image for the start  
time of the item followed by graphics, if any, identified  
by the associated data for the item, followed by an end  
slot image for the end time of the item if no end slot  
image for another item is found for the end time, and  
15 insert empty slot images at default times for which no end time  
or start time occurs in the list, and to the extent additional  
room is available on the display for the compressed  
mode.

The elimination of unnecessary timed lines in the form of empty slot  
20 images which are in between appointments, and lines within the range of longer  
appointments, allows for a more efficient use of space on the display screen.

The foregoing description of a preferred embodiment of the invention  
has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not  
intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms  
25 disclosed. Obviously, many modifications and variations will be apparent to  
practitioners skilled in this art. It is intended that the scope of the invention be  
defined by the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:



## CLAIMS

1           1.       A method for rendering a display of a list in a display field,  
2       wherein items in the list have a start time, an end time and associated data,  
3       comprising:  
4                if the list is empty, draw empty slot images for a plurality of default  
5       times, beginning with a start of day time and ending with an end of day time in  
6       respective positions in the display field;  
7                if the list is not empty, process each item in the list according to an  
8       order,  
9                if the end time of the item is earlier than the start time of a next  
10       item according to the order, then insert at an available  
11       position in the display field a start slot image for the start  
12       time of the item followed by graphics, if any, identified  
13       by the associated data for the item, followed by an end  
14       slot image for the end time of the item if no end slot  
15       image for another item is found for the end time,  
16       if the end time of the item matches the start time of a next item  
17       according to the order, then insert at an available position  
18       in the display field a start slot image for the start time of  
19       the item followed by graphics identified by the associated  
20       data for the item,  
21       if the end time of the item is later than the start time of a next  
22       item according to the order, then insert at an available  
23       position in the display field a start slot image for the start  
24       time of the item followed by graphics, if any, identified  
25       by the associated data for the item, followed by an end  
26       slot image for the end time of the item if no end slot  
27       image for another item is found for the end time, and

28 insert empty slot images at default times for which no end time  
29 or start time occurs in the list.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the empty slot images comprise  
2 text indicating respective default times in the plurality of default times.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the start slot images comprise  
2 text indicating a start time for a corresponding item in the list.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the end slot images comprise  
2 text indicating a end time for a corresponding item in the list.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated data for at least  
2 on item in the list comprises text, and the graphics identified by the associated  
3 data include characters of the text.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the default times include hours  
2 between the start of day time and the end of day time.

1 7. The method of claim 1, including assigning regions in the  
2 display field to the empty slot images, and in response to input indicating the  
3 assigned regions, displaying a tool for inserting an item in the list having a start  
4 time equal to the default time of the empty slot image.

1 8. The method of claim 1, including assigning regions in the  
2 display field to the start slot images, and in response to input indicating the  
3 assigned regions, displaying a tool for editing the item in the list corresponding  
4 to the start slot image of the assigned region.

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1           9.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of inserting empty slot  
2 images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default times  
3 which occur after the end time of a first item in the list but do not occur between  
4 start times and end times for other items in the list.

1           10.    The method of claim 9, wherein the step of inserting empty slot  
2 images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default times  
3 between the start of day time and the start time of an item in the list with an  
4 earliest start time, and between a last end slot image and an end of day time.

1           11.    The method of claim 1, wherein the display has a display height,  
2 and the start slot images, graphics indicated by associated data, end slot images  
3 and default slot images have respective heights, and the step of inserting empty  
4 slot images in the display field at default times includes  
5                inserting empty slot images for default times which occur after the end  
6 time of a first item in the list but do not occur between start times and end times  
7 for other items in the list,  
8                inserting empty slot images for default times between the start of day  
9 time and the start time of an item in the list with an earliest start time, and  
10               inserting empty slot images for default times after the end time of an  
11 item in the list having a latest end time until the first to occur of the end of day  
12 time and a condition in which a sum of the heights of the inserted start slot  
13 images, graphics indicated by associated data, end slot images and default slot  
14 images fills the display height.

1           12.    The method of claim 1, wherein the order proceeds  
2 chronologically from the start of day to the end of day.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the order proceeds reverse chronologically from the end of day to the start of day.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the display field comprises a plurality of rows, and including positioning the start slot images, graphics indicated by associated data, end slot images and default slot images respectively in one or more rows in the plurality of rows.

15. The method of claim 14, including in response to input indicating the one or more rows of an empty slot image, displaying a tool for inserting an item in the list having a start time equal to the default time of the empty slot image.

16. The method of claim 14, including in response to input indicating the one or more rows of a start slot image, displaying a tool for editing the item in the list corresponding to the start slot image.

17. For a device including a touch screen input for indicating a position on a display, a method for rendering the display of a list in a display field including a plurality of display regions, wherein items in the list have a start time, an end time and associated data, comprising:

if the list is empty, draw empty slot images for a plurality of default times, beginning with a start of day time and ending with an end of day time in respective positions in the display field;

if the list is not empty, process each item in the list according to an order,

if the end time of the item is earlier than the start time of a next item according to the order, then insert a start slot image for the start time of the item followed by graphics, if any,

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13 identified by the associated data for the item, followed by  
14 an end slot image for the end time of the item if no end  
15 slot image for another item is found for the end time, at  
16 respective display regions in the display field,  
17 if the end time of the item matches the start time of a next item  
18 according to the order, then insert a start slot image for  
19 the start time of the item followed by graphics identified  
20 by the associated data for the item, at respective display  
21 regions in the display field,  
22 if the end time of the item is later than the start time of a next  
23 item according to the order, then insert a start slot image  
24 for the start time of the item followed by graphics, if any,  
25 identified by the associated data for the item, followed by  
26 an end slot image for the end time of the item if no end  
27 slot image for another item is found for the end time, at  
28 respective display regions in the display field, and  
29 insert empty slot images at default times for which no end time  
30 or start time occurs in the list at respective display  
31 regions in the display field; and  
32 in response to input indicating the display region of a start slot image,  
33 displaying a tool for editing the item in the list corresponding to the start slot  
34 image of the indicated display region; and  
35 in response to input indicating the display regions of end slot images,  
36 displaying a tool for inserting an item in the list having a start time equal to the  
37 default time of the empty slot image of the indicated display region.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the empty slot images  
2 comprise text indicating respective default times in the plurality of default  
3 times.

1           19.     The method of claim 17, wherein the start slot images comprise  
2           text indicating a start time for a corresponding item in the list.

1           20.     The method of claim 17, wherein the end slot images comprise  
2           text indicating a end time for a corresponding item in the list.

1           21.     The method of claim 17, wherein the associated data for at least  
2           on item in the list comprises text, and the graphics identified by the associated  
3           data include characters of the text.

1           22.     The method of claim 17, wherein the default times include hours  
2           between the start of day time and the end of day time.

1           23.     The method of claim 17, wherein the step of inserting empty slot  
2           images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default times  
3           which occur after the end time of a first item in the list but do not occur between  
4           start times and end times for other items in the list.

1           24.     The method of claim 23, wherein the step of inserting empty slot  
2           images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default times  
3           between the start of day time and the start time of an item in the list with an  
4           earliest start time, and between a last end slot image and an end of day time.

1           25.     The method of claim 23, wherein the step of inserting empty slot  
2           images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default times  
3           between the start of day time and the start time of an item in the list with an  
4           earliest start time, and between a last end slot image and an end of day time  
5           until the display regions of the display field are consumed.

1           26.    The method of claim 17, wherein the order proceeds  
2 chronologically from the start of day to the end of day.

1           27.    The method of claim 17, wherein the order proceeds reverse  
2 chronologically from the end of day to the start of day.

1           28.    A hand held processor comprising:  
2           a display having a display field including a plurality of display regions,  
3           a touch sensitive overlay on the display field for providing input  
4           indicating a position on the display field, and  
5           processing resources for managing display of a list in the display field,  
6           wherein items in the list have a start time, an end time and associated data,  
7           which  
8           if the list is empty, draw empty slot images for a plurality of default  
9           times, beginning with a start of day time and ending with an end of day time in  
10          respective positions in the display field;  
11          if the list is not empty, process each item in the list according to an  
12          order,  
13                  if the end time of the item is earlier than the start time of a next  
14                  item according to the order, then insert a start slot image  
15                  for the start time of the item followed by graphics, if any,  
16                  identified by the associated data for the item, followed by  
17                  an end slot image for the end time of the item if no end  
18                  slot image for another item is found for the end time, at  
19                  respective display regions in the display field,  
20          if the end time of the item matches the start time of a next item  
21                  according to the order, then insert a start slot image for  
22                  the start time of the item followed by graphics identified

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23 by the associated data for the item, at respective display  
24 regions in the display field,  
25 if the end time of the item is later than the start time of a next  
26 item according to the order, then insert a start slot image  
27 for the start time of the item followed by graphics, if any,  
28 identified by the associated data for the item, followed by  
29 an end slot image for the end time of the item if no end  
30 slot image for another item is found for the end time, at  
31 respective display regions in the display field, and  
32 insert empty slot images at default times for which no end time  
33 or start time occurs in the list at respective display  
34 regions in the display field; and  
35 in response to input indicating the display region of a start slot image,  
36 display a tool for editing the item in the list corresponding to the start slot image  
37 of the indicated display region; and  
38 in response to input indicating the display regions of end slot images,  
39 display a tool for inserting an item in the list having a start time equal to the  
40 default time of the empty slot image of the indicated display region.

1 29. The processor of claim 28, wherein the empty slot images  
2 comprise text indicating a default time.

1 30. The processor of claim 28, wherein the start slot images  
2 comprise text indicating a start time for a corresponding item in the list.

1 31. The processor of claim 28, wherein the end slot images comprise  
2 text indicating a end time for a corresponding item in the list.



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1           32.    The processor of claim 28, wherein the associated data for at  
2           least on item in the list comprises text, and the graphics identified by the  
3           associated data include characters of the text.

1           33.    The processor of claim 28, wherein the default times include  
2           hours between the start of day time and the end of day time.

1           34.    The processor of claim 28, wherein the step of inserting empty  
2           slot images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default  
3           times which occur after the end time of a first item in the list but do not occur  
4           between start times and end times for other items in the list.

1           35.    The processor of claim 34, wherein the step of inserting empty  
2           slot images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default  
3           times between the start of day time and the start time of an item in the list with  
4           an earliest start time, and between a last end slot image and an end of day time.

1           36.    The processor of claim 34, wherein the step of inserting empty  
2           slot images at default times includes inserting empty slot images for default  
3           times between the start of day time and the start time of an item in the list with  
4           an earliest start time, and between a last end slot image and an end of day time  
5           until the display regions of the display field are consumed.

1           37.    The processor of claim 28, wherein the order proceeds  
2           chronologically from the start of day to the end of day.

1           38.    The processor of claim 28, wherein the order proceeds reverse  
2           chronologically from the end of day to the start of day.

## COLLAPSING EVENT DISPLAY FOR SMALL SCREEN COMPUTER

### ABSTRACT

5 The present invention provides an ability to generate a different layout on the screen of a calendaring program. The program generates customized time slots according to the start and end points of the appointments of the day. In addition to time slots covering appointments, empty time slots will be generated but will not appear on the screen if they overlap with an existing appointment. The elimination of unnecessary images for empty time slots which are in between appointments allows for a more efficient use of space on the display screen. In compressed view mode, empty one-hour time slots will be generated to the extent necessary to fill up the screen. If in non-compressed view mode, empty time slots of one-hour duration will be added to the layout from the beginning to the end of the day. -

10

INPUT

User inputs hours  
of appointments  
by touch

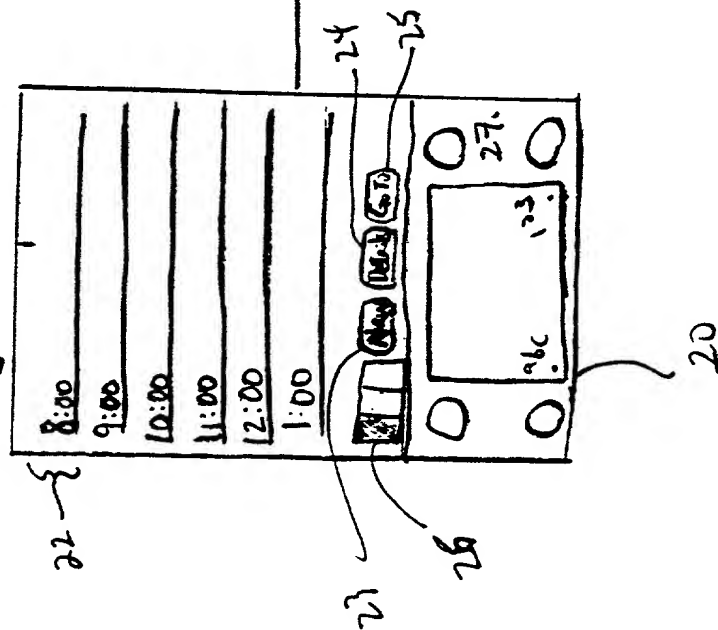
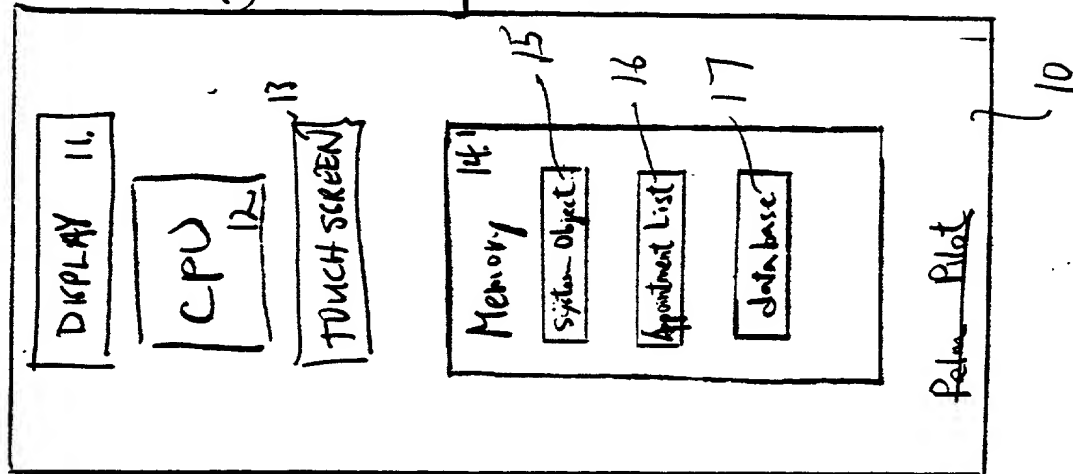


Fig. 1



OUTPUT

Revised time lines  
exhibiting start time  
and end time of  
appointments and other available time

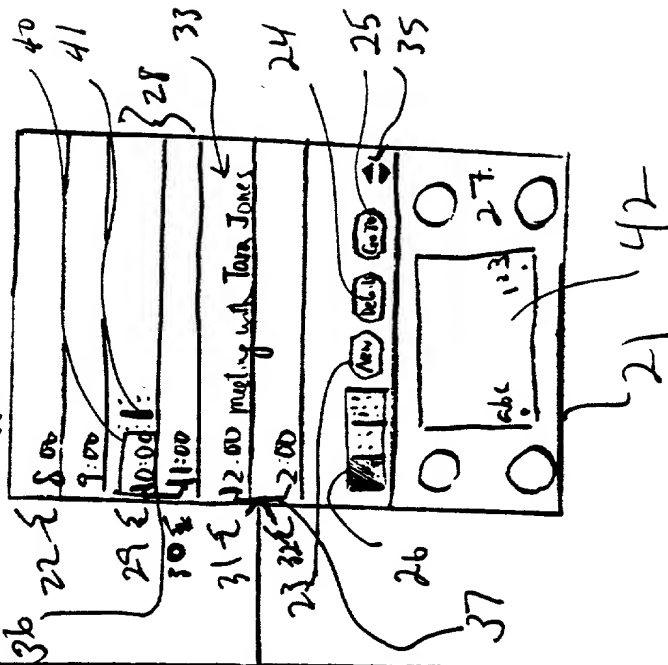


Fig. 2

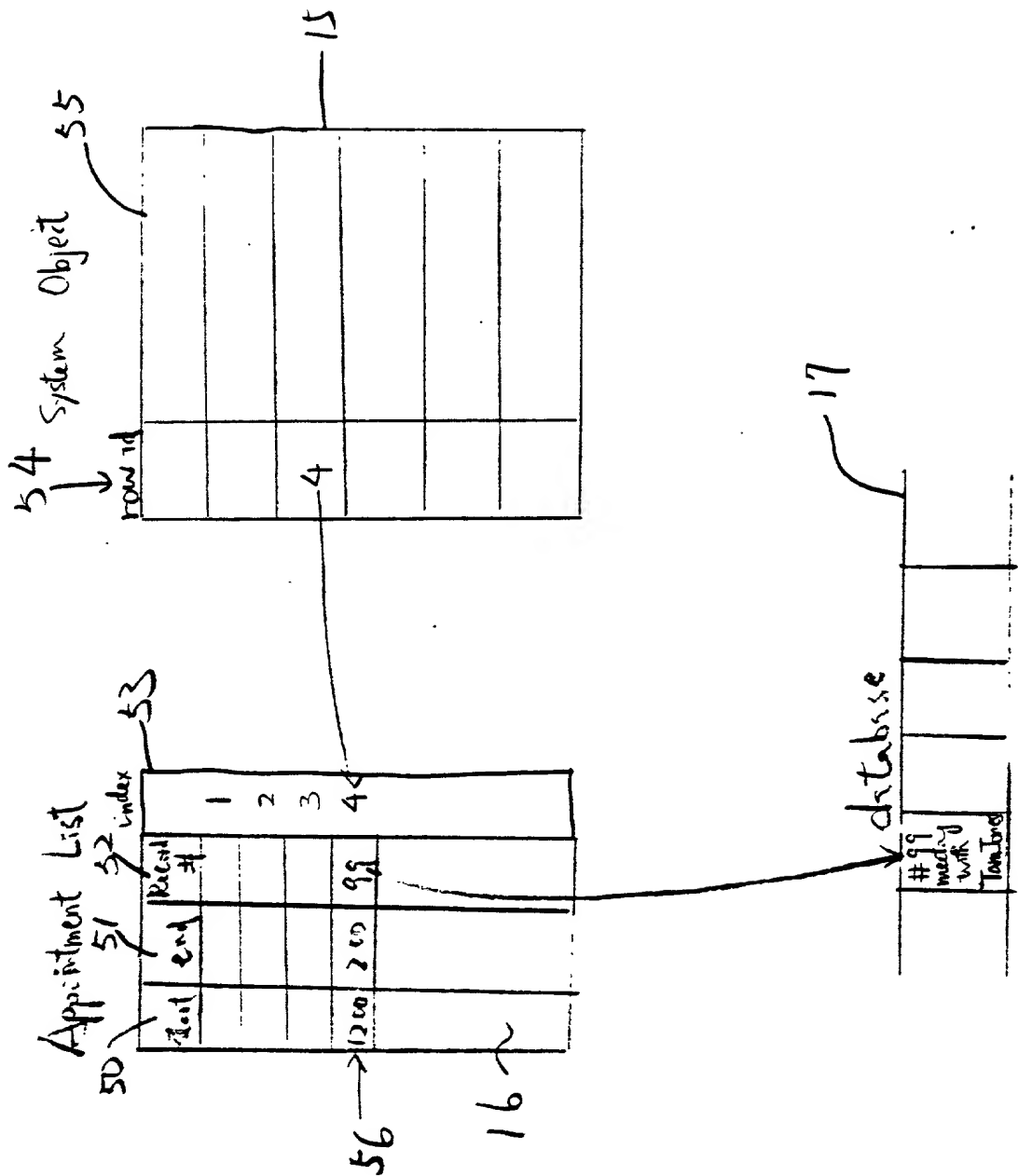
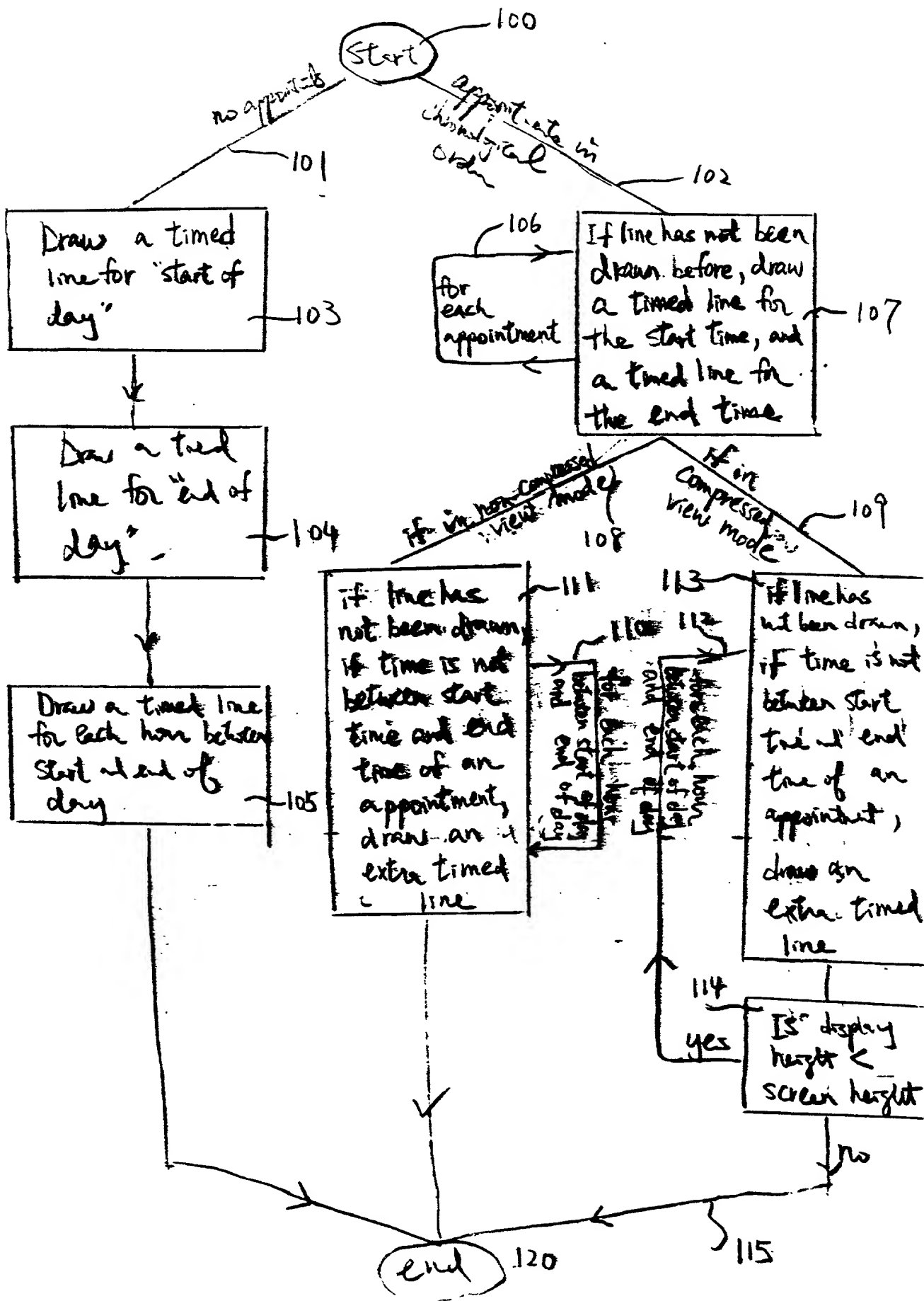


Fig 3



**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**COLLAPSING EVEN DISPLAY FOR SMALL SCREEN COMPUTER**

the specification of which

\_\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto.

X was filed on March 9, 1998 as Application No. 09/037,157.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which states in relevant part: "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section....The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98."

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate as indicated below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Country)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Year Filed)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Country)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/Month/Year Filed)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s), and under §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s), listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file, prosecute and to transact all business in connection with international applications directed to said invention:

Paul Davis	29,294
Mark A. Haynes	30,846
John Bruckner	35,816
Charles C. Cary	36,764
David J. Weitz	38,362
Kent R. Richardson	39,443
David Abraham	39,554
U.P. Peter Eng	39,666
George A. Willman	41,378

Address all correspondence to:

**Mark A. Haynes**  
**Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati**  
**650 Page Mill Road**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94304**

Direct all telephone calls to Mark A. Haynes at (650) 493-9300.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, §1001

and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or  
first inventor:

Arthur C. Lamb

Inventor's signature:

*Arthur C. Lamb*

Date:

8/5/98

Citizenship:

USA

Residence:

Tiburon, California

Post Office Address:

3175 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920

Full name of second joint  
inventor, if any::

Rob Haitani

Inventor's signature:

*Rob Haitani*

Date:

8/7/98

Citizenship:

USA

Residence:

San Jose, California

Post Office Address:

1455 Fields Drive, San Jose, CA 95129